

Message Text

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TAGS: OVIP, TH (MONDALE, WALTER F.)

SUBJECT: VICE PRESIDENT'S TRIP: PENDING MATTERS

REF: A. BANGKOK 8633 B. STATE 074852

1. ADMINISTRATION. DEPT-VP STAFF MEETING ON ADMIN MATTERS WILL BE HELD MARCH 23 VICE 30 (REFTEL B).
2. TOAST. TEXT DRAFT TOAST PREVIOUSLY PROVIDED NSC STAFF CONTAINED PARA 4. FOR YOUR INFO/COMMENT. IT NEEDS TO BE EXPANDED TO MEET EMB RECOMMENDED 10 MINUTE LENGTH.
3. ARRIVAL/DEPARTURE STATEMENTS. WILL NOT BE USED AS PER EMB RECOMMENDATION. PREVIOUSLY PREPARED DRAFT DEPARTURE STATEMENT MAY BE INCORPORATED INTO PRESS MEETING. DRAFT TEXT IS CONTAINED PARA 5 FOR YOUR INFO/COMMENT.

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4. MR. PRIME MINISTER, DISTINGUISHED GUESTS:

I THANK YOU FOR YOUR WARM WELCOME AND ELOQUENT EXPRESSION OF GOOD WILL TOWARDS OUR COUNTRY. AS YOU ALL KNOW, AMERICA; CONTACT WITH THAILAND GOES BACK TO THE EARLY 19TH CENTURY. IT WAS WITH THAILAND IN 1835 THAT

WE SIGNED OUR FIRST TREATY WITH AN ASIAN GOVERNMENT. IT WAS UNDER THE GREAT KING MONGKUT THAT OUR NATIONS BECAME GENUINELY INTERESTED IN EACH OTHER. KING MONGKUT IN A LETTER TO PRESIDENT FRANKLIN PIERCE IN 1861 PAID OUR POLITICAL SYSTEM A GREAT COMPLIMENT. AFTER NOTING THAT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ELECTED A PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT TO SERVE FOR A LIMITED TERM OF OFFICE, THE KING WENT ON TO WRITE:

-- THAT THIS CUSTOM SHOULD CONTINUE FOR SO LONG A PERIOD AND NO DISTURBANCE ARISE OR STRIFE TO OBTAIN POSSESSION OF THE SUPREME POWER AS IS CONSTANTLY OCCURRING IN OTHER COUNTRIES, IS VERY REMARKABLE INDEED AND THE CUSTOM IS ONE WORTHY OF ALL PRAISE.

ANOTHER INDICATION OF THE INTEREST AND EARLY FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES IS REFLECTED IN THE CLOSING OF AN 1862 LETTER TO KING MONGHUT FROM PRESIDENT LINCOLN:

.... A LONG AND HAPPY LIFE, AND FOR THE GENEROUS AND EMULOUS PEOPLE OF SIAM THE HIGHEST POSSIBLE PROSPERITY, I COMMEND BOTH TO THE BLESSING OF ALMIGHTY GOD. YOUR GOOD FRIEND, ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

OUR TWO SOCIETIES HAVE MAINTAINED A GENUINE INTEREST
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IN EACH OTHER FROM THE TIME OF KING MONGKUT UNTIL THE PRESENT DAY. THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THAILAND HAS, OF COURSE, CHANGED IN RESPONSE TO NEW CIRCUMSTANCES. YET THE SPECIAL BOND BETWEEN US HAS REMAINED. IN MY VIEW WE SHARE A FUNDAMENTAL VALUE - THAT OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THE INDIVIDUAL IN SOCIETY. FOR BOTH OF US THE PHRASE, THE LAND OF THE FREE, HAS A VERY SPECIAL RESONANCE.

SOUTHEAST ASIA HAS ENTERED A NEW ERA - AN ERA OF GREATER PROMISE AS WELL AS CONTINUED CHALLENGE. WE ARE CONVINCED THAT THAILAND WILL PLAY A POSITIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, BOTH IN ITS SUCCESSFUL EFFORTS TO BUILD A STRONG AND JUST SOCIETY AT HOME AND IN PROMOTING PEACEFUL COOPERATION THROUGHOUT THE REGION. YOU MAY BE ASSURED THAT WE STAND READY TO CONTINUE TO ASSIST THAILAND IN WORKING TOWARDS THESE OBJECTIVES.

I THEREFORE PROPOSE A TOAST TO THE CONTINUATION OF OUR SPECIAL FRIENDSHIP AND TO THE HEALTH AND CONTINUED SUCCESSFUL REIGN OF HIS MAJESTY THE KING.

5. MR. PRIME MINISTER, ETC.:

IT IS WITH APPRECIATION AND RESPECT AS WELL AS REGRET THAT I DEPART THAILAND -- APPRECIATION FOR THE CORDIALITY AND WARMTH OF MY RECEPTION, RESPECT FOR THE KNOWLEDGE AND WISDOM EVIDENCED DURING OUR DISCUSSIONS, AND REGRET THAT MY VISIT HAS BEEN SO SHORT. I WISH TO ASSURE YOU AND YOUR GOVERNMENT THAT I WILL CONVEY TO THE PRESIDENT AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE YOUR MANY EXPRESSIONS OF ESTEEM AND BEST WISHES.

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THAILAND AND THE UNITED STATES HAS UNDERGONE MAJOR CHANGES IN RECENT YEARS. IT IS NOW, IN MY VIEW, STRONGER THAN EVER BEFORE -- A RELATIONSHIP LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BETWEEN EQUALS, BASED ON A BROAD RANGE OF MUTUALLY SHARED GOALS. ALTHOUGH THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND POLITICAL FORCES THAT HAVE SHAPED OUR HISTORIES HAVE BEEN VERY DIFFERENT, THAILAND AND THE UNITED STATES SHARE SIMILAR FUNDAMENTAL VIEWS ON THE IMPORTANCE OF THE INDIVIDUAL IN SOCIETY. KING RAMKHAMHAENG'S (RAHM-KHAM-HENG) FAMOUS 13TH CENTURY INSCRIPTION, WHICH IS NOW ON VIEW IN BANGKOK'S NATIONAL MUSEUM, ELOQUENTLY EXPRESSES AN IDEAL OF EQUAL JUSTICE THAT WAS REVOLUTIONARY IN ITS DAY AND REMAINS RELEVANT TODAY.

OUR TWO COUNTRIES ARE COMMITTED TO PROMOTING PEACEFUL COOPERATION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. WE SHARE COMMON VIEWS ON THE NEED TO PRODUCE AND ALLOCATE FOOD AND ENERGY RESOURCES IN A MANNER THAT WILL SERVE THE BEST INTERESTS OF ALL MANKIND. WE ARE BOTH SEEKING TO ALLEVIATE HUMAN MISERY AND ADVANCE HUMAN ASPIRATIONS. OUR COMMON CONCERN HAS FACILITATED BETTER UNDERSTANDING ON PROBLEMS RELATING TO REFUGEES, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND ILLICIT DRUGS.

MY DISCUSSIONS HERE HAVE PROVIDED NEW INSIGHTS AS TO HOW THE U.S. AND THAILAND CAN WORK TOGETHER AND WITH OTHER NATIONS TO MAKE MORE PROGRESS ON ALL THESE ISSUES.

I AM NOW AT THE MID-WAY POINT IN MY VISIT TO THREE OF THE FIVE ASEAN CAPITALS. MY DISCUSSIONS HERE AND IN JAKARTA AND THE EARLIER CONVERSATIONS IN WASHINGTON THAT PRESIDENT CARTER AND I HAD WITH YOUR COLLEAGUES FROM MALAYSIA AND SINGAPORE HAVE REINFORCED OUR BELIEF THAT ASEAN IS CONTRIBUTING INCREASINGLY TO THE ECONOMIC PROGRESS, SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, AND COHESION OF THE REGION. THE UNITED STATES ACCORDINGLY LOOKS FORWARD TO THE NEXT

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DETAILING THE HUMANITARIAN WAY TO GOVERN THE KINGDOM INCLUDING A BELL TO BE RUNG BY THOSE SEEKING IMPARTIAL ROYAL JUSTICE.

SESSION OF THE US-ASEAN DIALOGUE WHICH WILL BE HELD IN WASHINGTON LATER THIS YEAR. THIS MEETING WILL RECEIVE FULL AND SERIOUS ATTENTION FROM ALL LEVELS OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT.

I HOPE, MR. PRIME MINISTER, THAT YOU WILL CONVEY MY THANKS AND THOSE OF MY PARTY TO ALL OF YOUR ASSOCIATES FOR THE REWARDING DISCUSSIONS IN WHICH WE HAVE ENGAGED. I LEAVE THAILAND WITH GREAT ADMIRATION FOR THE FAR-SEEING POLICIES OF YOUR GOVERNMENT AND FOR THE QUALITIES OF THE THAI PEOPLE. I LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUING OUR PARTNERSHIP IN THE EFFORT WE MUST ALL MAKE TO ENCOURAGE PEACE AND PROGRESS IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC. VANCE

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